

removal of a compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed,

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material has a plasticized outer surface,

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material with the plasticized outer surface has a ring portion which is not covered with a plasticizer, is arranged behind said paper ring and provides additional air inflow in smoking.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 9 are amended.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims 1, 4 and 9 to remove the size reference, and accordingly the claims are believed in compliance with section 112, second paragraph.

With regard to the question of which element has a total length that exceeds the tobacco rod, applicants have amended the claims to clarify that the mouthpiece is being referred to here.

Also, with respect to the "open flow area" and "compressive load" language, applicants have amended the claims 1, 4 and 9 to positively recite these concepts.

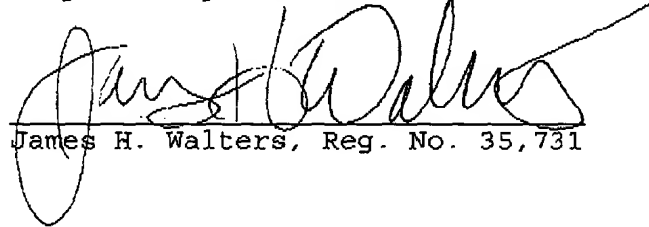
In view of these amendments, the claims are believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections. Applicants have amended the claims with attention to the concerns of the Examiner, and accordingly, the claims are believed allowable.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,

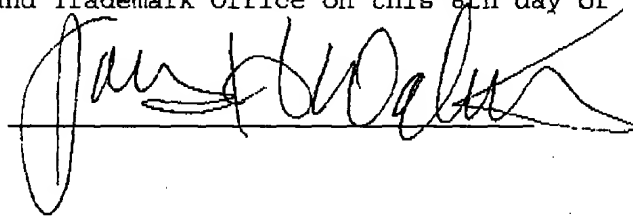


James H. Walters, Reg. No. 35,731

Customer number 802
DELLETT AND WALTERS
Suite 1101
310 S. W. Fourth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204 US
(503) 224-0115
DOCKET: V-202

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MARKUP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A smokers' article characterized in that it comprises a tobacco rod wrapped in a separate sleeve made of cigarette paper, a resilient and elongated mouthpiece which is connected to said rod [and has the size of a cardboard mouthpiece] and which is made of a pressed fibrous material and includes a filter member arranged on the tobacco rod side and made integral with a tubular portion of said mouthpiece, said filter member being a continuous cylinder with a diameter substantially equal to that of the elongated mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length of said mouthpiece exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure restoration of an open flow area of the tubular portion [open flow area] after removal of a compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed.

4. (Twice Amended) A smokers' article characterized in that it comprises a tobacco rod wrapped in a separate sleeve made of cigarette paper, a resilient and elongated mouthpiece which is

connected to said rod [and has the size of a cardboard mouthpiece] and which is made of a pressed fibrous material and includes a filter member arranged on the tobacco rod side and made integral with a tubular portion of said mouthpiece, said filter member being a continuous cylinder with a diameter equal to that of the mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length of said [filter member] mouthpiece exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure restoration of an open flow area of the tubular portion [open flow area] after removal of a compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed,

wherein an additional filter member is arranged behind said cylindrical filter member inside said mouthpiece tubular portion.

9. (Twice Amended) A smokers' article characterized in that it comprises a tobacco rod wrapped in a separate sleeve made of cigarette paper, a resilient and elongated mouthpiece which is connected to said rod [and has the size of a cardboard mouthpiece] and which is made of a pressed fibrous material and includes a filter member arranged on the tobacco rod side and

made integral with a tubular portion of said mouthpiece, said filter member being a continuous cylinder with a diameter equal to that of the mouthpiece tubular portion and which total length of said [filter member] mouthpiece exceeds that of said tobacco rod;

the length of the said cylindrical filter member being at least half as great as the length of the tobacco rod and at least one third as great as the length of the said tubular portion of the mouthpiece, the tobacco rod being connected to the elongated mouthpiece with a paper ring overlapping, at least, the surface of said cylindrical filter member, and the fibrous material of the mouthpiece being pressed to such a degree so as to ensure restoration of an open flow area of the tubular portion [open flow area] after removal of a compressive load under which the tubular portion has been fully compressed,

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material has a plasticized outer surface,

wherein said resilient and elongated mouthpiece made of a pressed fibrous material with the plasticized outer surface has a ring portion which is not covered with a plasticizer, is arranged behind said paper ring and provides additional air inflow in smoking.